

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides Semaphorin W inhibiting neurite outgrowth, and a gene therefor, as well as other Semaphorins hybridizing to said Semaphorin W gene, modified proteins or partial peptides of said Semaphorin W, antibodies against said Semaphorin W, antisense nucleotides against said Semaphorin W gene, and the use of such substances as pharmaceutical or diagnostic agents or laboratory reagents. The present invention further provides a method of screening for Semaphorin W antagonists employing said Semaphorin W, Semaphorin W antagonists obtained by said screening method, pharmaceutical agents comprising such antagonists, and transgenic animals involving said Semaphorin W.

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